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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(March 22 - April 21, 1981)

May 1981

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

Analyst: Gerald Cady

PREFACE

This monthly survey compiles articles on sub-Sahara Africa which appear in Pravda. It has been prepared since April 1980. Pravda is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Items published are presumably authoritative. Articles dealing with Soviet political, military, or economic interests in Africa are entirely translated or extensively excerpted or summarized. News accounts which heavily rely on news services of other countries are simply noted. All entries have been arranged chronologically under general African or country headings. FBIS translations are summarized or annotated for reader reference; duplication is avoided.

Summary of Commentary in Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa

(22 March - 21 April 1981)*

AFRICA GENERAL

Capital Indebtedness of Third World

(Text) The foreign indebtedness of the underdeveloped countries of the world reach \$400 billion. This figure was released in the Cuban journal Boemia in an interview with Oscar Pino Santos, Chairman of the Association of Economists of the Developing Countries. (22 March 1981, p. 1)

The USSR and the Third World

[In a frontpage editorial Brezhnev's remarks on the political, military, and economic conditions of the Third World made at the 26th Soviet Communist Party Congress, held in February of this year, were reiterated. In particular, it was noted that the colonial system of imperialism had been liquidated and that the Soviet Union had made great strides in broadening cooperation--economic and scientific--with the newly independent countries. Also mentioned was the Soviet willingness to provide assistance to upgrade a nation's defensive capabilities, such as in Angola or Ethiopia, whenever it is requested. (28 March 1981, p. 1)]

AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION

Opening Session

(Summary) The 13th session of the Council of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization opened in Aden, the capital of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Representatives from nearly 100 national solidarity committees and political or social organizations from the two continents were in attendance. The forum in Aden plans to address some of the important questions facing its participants such as strengthening the cohesion of the national-patriotic forces and deepening the unity between the liberation movements and the forces of world socialism against the aggressive intrigues and pretenses of the forces of neocolonialism and imperialism. (22 March 1981, p. 5)

ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Condemnation of American Policies

(Excerpt) The Organization of African Unity meeting in Addis Ababa has condemned the American intention to render assistance to the marionette counter-revolutionary National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) which is conducting military actions against the people of Angola. (30 March 1981, p. 5)

* Edition of 23 March not received.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Meeting of States Contiguous with the RSA

(Excerpt) According to reports out of Mbabane, the capital of Swaziland, a meeting of the heads of some of the states that share borders with the Republic of South Africa (RSA) took place there yesterday. Included among the participants were representatives from Mozambique, Swaziland, Botswana, and Lesotho. In a communique, the four nations condemned the attempts of the RSA to destabilize the political systems of its neighbors. (8 April 1981, p. 5)

UNITED STATES INTERESTS IN AFRICA

The Washington-Pretoria Axis

(Summary) It has become increasingly clear with the policies and pronouncements of the Reagan administration involving Africa that an outright alliance is forming with the Republic of South Africa and that the forces of imperialism support and make possible the racist system of apartheid. (24 March 1981, p. 4)

American Support for UNITA

(Excerpt) The Reagan administration has finally dropped the mask which had earlier hidden its support for the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) band of terrorists involved in destabilizing activities against the legal government of Angola, and admitted that it was reviewing its policy regarding establishing official contacts with these bandits. As is well known, the United States had supplied money and arms to UNITA by way of third parties and the Central Intelligence Agency. (25 March 1981, p. 5)

African Opposition to American Policies

(Excerpt) The United States was informed by Kurt Waldheim, General Secretary of the United Nations, of a demarche prepared by a group of African nations that expressed grave concern over the United States' open support of the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa. (29 March 1981, p. 5)

African Reaction to Reagan Administration

[Citing newspapers in Zimbabwe, Uganda, Cameroon, and Sierra Leone, this Pravda article highlights the concern expressed regarding the so-called alliance, between the United States and the Republic of South Africa. (31 March 1981, p. 5)]

US Support for UNITA

(Summary) Washington's avowed intention of lifting the ban on aid to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) bandit puppet grouping, which opposes the legitimate government of the People's Republic of Angola, will further complicate the situation in southern Africa and has seriously upset the African public. (1 April 1981, p. 5 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #065, 6 April 1981, p. J1.)

US Support for UNITA

(Summary) American officials from the Department of State held a secret meeting in Morocco with J. Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), aimed at expanding that group's operations against Angola. (2 April 1981, p. 4 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #068, 9 April 1981, p. A4.)

US-South African Cooperation

(Summary) According to the Angolan newspaper Journal of Angola, the American CIA and the secret service of the Republic of South Africa have begun to cooperate and coordinate their activities against Mozambique, Angola, Zambia, and the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO). (8 April 1981, p. 5)

America's New Course in Africa

(Excerpt) The White House's new course in Africa was proclaimed by President Reagan when he openly described the racist Republic of South Africa as a friendly country which is of vital importance to the West. Chester Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, stated during his recent tour of Africa that the United States has interests everywhere in Africa and is prepared to protect them. In sum, the United States is attempting to implement a new hegemonistic course. (14 April 1981, p. 5)

ANGOLA

Border Violations

(Excerpt) According to a report made public by the Ministry of Defense of Angola, the racist armed forces of the Republic of South Africa violated Angola's southern border 23 times during the first half of April. (18 April 1981, p. 5)

Socialist Competition

(Excerpt) More than 32,000 workers from 172 industrial enterprises took part in a socialist competition [method of increasing production employed in the USSR involving industries or individual plants competing against one another or against past quotas with cash or vacations as prizes]. More than 1,000 workers received diplomas making them front-rank workers. (19 April 1981, p. 1)

New Government Formed

(Excerpt) In accordance with resolutions made by the past two plenums of the Central Committee of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA)--Labor Party, Angolan President E. dos Santos formed a new government consisting of 19 ministers, 6 state secretaries, and the manager of the state bank. (22 March 1981, p. 5)

Meeting with Gromyko

(Text) L. de Castro, the new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Angola, met in the Kremlin with A. Gromyko, Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union. During the course of their conversation, which took place in a warm and comradely atmosphere, there was an exchange of opinions on the friendly Soviet-Angolan relations and on pressing international problems, including the situation in southern Africa. (24 March 1981, p. 4)

South African Invasion Continues

(Summary) South African aggressors, after invading Angola more than a month ago, continue to make attacks against the population center of Mulemba, located about 70 kilometers from the capital of Cunene-Onshiva Province. The invading forces, their numbers swelled with groups like UNITA, have directed their strategy against economic targets in an attempt to topple the Angolan Government. (26 March 1981, p. 4)

Credential Ceremony

(Excerpts) On 30 March in the Kremlin, Luis Paulo de Castro, Angolan Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, presented his credentials to V. V. Kuznetsov, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Presenting his credentials, the Ambassador expressed profound satisfaction with the development of friendship and cooperation between Angola and the USSR. Accepting the credentials, V. V. Kuznetsov stressed that the USSR is following the Leninist foreign policy course and is implementing the decisions of the 26th Congress. Our country has been and still is Angola's loyal friend, he said. (31 March 1981, p. 4)

DJIBOUTI

Reaction to Natural Disaster

(Summary) L. I. Brezhnev sent a telegram to K. G. Aptidon, President of Djibouti, expressing the Soviet peoples' grief over the loss in life and material in Djibouti caused by floods. (27 March 1981, p. 2)

Humanitarian Aid

(Excerpt) The Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent Society has rendered free assistance to the population of the Republic of Djibouti who were victims of a flood. The aid, delivered by Aeroflot, consisted of medical supplies, clothing, and tents. (16 April 1981, p. 4)

ETHIOPIA

Network of Drug Stores

(Summary) There has been an increase in the number of drug stores organized by associations of peasants and urban dwellers. The associations build the drug stores with their own funds and the government provides the skilled specialists and the medical supplies. (26 March 1981, p. 5)

Collectivization

(Excerpt) In the Ethiopian province of Godjam, major changes in the land tenure system are taking place. They are associated with the effort to create new settlements in which members of peasant production cooperatives would reside. The cooperatives in Godjam will be about 600 hectares in size [1 hectare = 2.47 acres]. (10 April 1981, p. 5)

Soviet Greetings to Mengistu

(Summary) Soviet President L. I. Brezhnev and Prime Minister N. A. Tikhonov sent Mengistu Haile Mariam, Chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC) and Commission to Organize a Worker's Party in Ethiopia (COPWE), warm congratulations on occasion of Ethiopia's "Victory Day." (6 April 1981, p. 1 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #069, 10 April 1981, p. J1.)

General Yepishev's Visit

(Summary) The visit of the Soviet military delegation led by Army General A. A. Yepishev, Chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, that resulted in a fruitful exchange of opinions has come to an end. (14 April 1981, p. 4 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #074, 17 April 1981, p. J1.)

GHANA

Gold Mining

(Summary) Gold fever is running high in southwestern Ghana where state-owned gold deposits, estimated to contain 2 billion ounces, are to be mined by foreign companies. (20 April 1981, p. 6)

MADAGASCAR

Book Exhibition

(Excerpt) An exhibition of books, dedicated to celebrating the 26th Soviet Communist Party Congress and the 111th anniversary of Lenin's birth, was held in the city of Ambatundrazaka. (7 April 1981, p. 5)

Zone of Peace Demanded

(Excerpt) D. Ratsiraka, President of Madagascar, called for the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean which would mean the liquidation of military bases in the area. (7 April 1981, p. 5)

Humanitarian Aid

(Summary) The USSR Union of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has sent free aid in the form of medical supplies to the population of the drought-stricken Democratic Republic of Madagascar. (10 April 1981, p. 4 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #071, 14 April 1981, p. J2.)

Humanitarian Aid

(Excerpt) The Soviet Red Cross donated 2.5 tons of medicines to the people of Madagascar who are suffering from the effects of a drought. At a ceremony in Antananarivo, the Madagascar minister of health expressed profound gratitude at this humanitarian gesture that is just the latest example of international brotherly solidarity on the part of the USSR. (15 April 1981, p. 5)

MAURITANIA

French Involvement

(Summary) In its analysis of events, the French newspaper l'Humanite has concluded that the French Government was involved in the attempted coup d'etat in Mauritania. It seems that the conspirators involved in this overthrow had set off for Mauritania from France. The newspaper also disclosed that this fact is not surprising since the United States has been urging France to play the role of policeman in Africa. (22 March 1981, p. 5)

MAURITIUS

Exchange of Telegrams

(Summary) L. I. Brezhnev sent a telegram to Sir D. Burrenchobay, Governor-General of Mauritius, on the occasion of that country's Independence Day. In a reply telegram, D. Burrenchobay expressed cordial gratitude. (27 March 1981, p. 2 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report, #063, 2 April 1981, p. J1.)

Hunger Strike over Diego Garcia

(Excerpt) According to reports out of Port Louis, a group of women, former inhabitants of Diego Garcia, is in its 17th day of a hunger strike. The women are protesting their forceful removal from their homeland in order that the United States could construct a military base. (3 April 1981, p. 5)

Exchange of Telegrams

(Summary) Prime Minister N. A. Tikhonov sent Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, a congratulatory telegraph message on the occasion of Mauritius' Independence Day. (7 April 1981, p. 2 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #069, 10 April 1981, p. J1.)

MOZAMBIQUE

Soviet Solidarity Delegation

(Excerpt) The Mozambican Association of Friendship and Solidarity with Peoples of Foreign Countries, in a joint communique issued at the end of the visit by the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa, declared that the 26th Soviet Communist Party Congress was a historic event with great significance for the future of humanity. (24 March 1981, p. 4)

Parliamentarians' Visit

(Summary) A Soviet parliamentary delegation led by a member of the Supreme Soviet's Presidium, M. Shakirov, has left for Mozambique for an official visit of friendship. (27 March 1981, p. 4)

Soviet Delegation Arrives

(Excerpt) The Soviet parliamentary delegation led by M. Shakirov arrived in Mozambique. (28 March 1981, p. 4)

Example Set by the Soviet Union

(Excerpt) Marcelino Dos Santos, a Secretary of the Central Committee of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO), speaking at a meeting with the delegation of Soviet parliamentarians led by M. Shakirov, declared that the 26th Soviet Communist Party Congress and Brezhnev's report, in particular, were of enormous significance not only to the Soviet people but to all Communists and progressive individuals. (30 March 1981, p. 4)

Delegation Meets with Machel

(Summary) S. Machel, Chairman of FRELIMO, met with the Soviet legislators on 2 April. (3 April 1981, p. 4)

Delegation Departs

(Summary) The Soviet parliamentarians ended their official visit and left for home. (4 April 1981, p. 5) and (5 April 1981, p. 4)

Communique with Algeria

(Excerpt) C. Bendjedid, President of the Algerian National Democratic Republic, during a visit to Mozambique, sharply condemned the aggressive and undermining activities of the racist Republic of South Africa against its neighbors in a joint communique with his host. (6 April 1981, p. 4)

Council of Ministers

(Summary) Work has begun in the capital of Mozambique at a meeting of the Council of Ministers. Important questions on the agenda are liquidating internal counterrevolutionaries, corruption, bribery, and other antisocial tendencies. (19 April 1981, p. 1)

Labor Celebration

(Summary) Leninist Labor Week began in Mozambique highlighted by a huge meeting at the Park of International Friendship where slogans calling for greater ties with the Soviet people were heard. (20 April 1981, p. 1)

NAMIBIA

Refugees

(Excerpt) More than 5,000 Namibian inhabitants, fleeing from the repression of the occupying forces of the Republic of South Africa, have found safety in Angola, Zambia, and Zimbabwe in the first 3 months of this year. (6 April 1981, p. 5)

Accident in Mine

(Summary) There was an explosion in a mine located near Ongandzera in northern Namibia in which two workers were killed and several others severely injured. The underlining cause of this tragedy was the total disregard of elementary safety precautions by the racist South African authorities. (11 April 1981, p. 4)

Frontline States Meet

(Excerpt) A meeting took place in Luanda attended by the leaders of Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, Botswana, the foreign minister of Zimbabwe, and the president of SWAPO. The participants discussed the situation in southern Africa and gave special attention to the problems of Namibia, illegally occupied by the racists of the Republic of South Africa. (17 April 1981, p. 5)

Nonalined Meeting

(Summary) The Coordinating Bureau on Namibia of the Nonalined Group of Nations met in a special session in Algiers. (20 April 1981, p. 1)

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Large Diamond Found

(Summary) A diamond almost 300 carats in size was found in a Kimberley mine owned by the DeBeers company. (5 April 1981, p. 5)

Antiapartheid Organization

(Summary) A new public organization opposed to the apartheid laws in the Republic of South Africa was formed in New York where it held its first demonstration outside of the United Nations. (5 April 1981, p. 5)

Rent Protest

(Summary) A thousand dwellers in the Johannesburg suburb of Tembisa protested a 70 percent rent increase and were dispersed by police. (7 April 1981, p. 5)

SENEGAL

Exchange of Telegrams

(Excerpts) L. I. Brezhnev sent a telegram to A. Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal, expressing congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of Senegal's national holiday.

In a return telegram, A. Diouf thanked the Soviet leader and people. (17 April 1981, p. 2)

SIERRA LEONE

Aeroflot Link Begins

(Summary) Aeroflot opened its 86th foreign air link with the Moscow-Freetown route. (9 April 81, p. 6 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #071, 14 April 1981, p. J2.)

SEYCHELLES

Official Visit

(Excerpt) A Seychellois delegation led by D. Reno, Chairman of the National Assembly, arrived in Moscow on 5 April. (7 April 1981, p. 4)

Delegation in Leningrad

(Summary) The Seychellois delegation continued its visit by meeting with officials in Leningrad and later doing some sightseeing. (10 April 1981, p. 4)

Delegation Departs

(Summary) On 13 April members of the Seychellois delegation met with I. Polyakov, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and discussed matters of mutual interest. Later that day, the delegation departed for home. (14 April 1981, p. 4)

TANZANIA

Parliamentary Delegation Visits Moscow

(Summary) A delegation from the Tanzanian National Assembly led by the Assembly's Speaker, Adam Sapimkwana, arrived in Moscow on 17 April for an official visit. (18 April 1981, p. 4)

Delegation Tours Moscow

(Summary) The Tanzanian delegation visited the Grave of the Unknown Soldier and Lenin's Tomb on 18 April. (19 April 1981, p. 4)

Delegation in Central Asia

(Summary) The Tanzanian delegation flew to Azerbaidzhan and visited an oil refinery and a museum. (21 April 1981, p. 5)

TOGO

Economic Strategy

(Excerpts) Last December the Togolese Parliament adopted the fourth 5-year plan of economic and social development for the years 1981-85. Given the most emphasis in the plan is the agricultural sector. The goal aimed at by the end of the plan is self-sufficiency in food, as it is now necessary to import large amounts of grain, animal fats, sugar, and other nutritional products. Improving the mix and quantity of agricultural products that are exported is also a priority in the current economic plan. (17 April 1981, p. 4)

ZAMBIA

Credential Ceremony

(Summary) Joshua Siyolwe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Zambia, presented his credentials to V. Kuznetsov, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in the Kremlin on 27 March. (28 March 1981, p. 4)

ZIMBABWE

Message to Reagan

(Excerpt) Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, sent a message to President Reagan expressing his serious concern regarding the deteriorating situation in southern Africa. According to Mugabe, the major cause of the serious situation was the White House's friendly and favorable attitude towards the racist and minority government of the Republic of South Africa. (28 March 1981, p. 5)

After One Year of Independence

(Summary) Zimbabwe is marking the first anniversary of its independence. After a long and arduous struggle, Zimbabwe's people won their freedom with weapons in their hands against colonialists and a racist regime enjoying the support of the imperialist circles. Zimbabwe already has to its credit begun to resolve some of its urgent and important domestic problems. One of these achievements is the creation of the nucleus of a national army. Another important preoccupation is that of improving the life of the previously deprived section of the country's African population. It has been necessary to undertake the elimination of racial discrimination in the sphere of wages, health, and education, and in the housing conditions of the country's African population. More complex is the question of providing land for peasants, refugees, and former members of the liberation armies. But private ownership of land has been retained in Zimbabwe so the small segment of colonial farmers still own one-half of the agricultural land, and the most fertile land at that.

In the international arena, Zimbabwe's position is strengthening. The republic has become a member of the United Nations and has joined the Organization of African Unity. An agreement was signed recently on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Zimbabwe and the USSR. (19 April 1981, p. 4 and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #078, 23 April 1981, pp. J2-4.)

Support for Liberation Movement

(Summary) In a radio and television address, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe declared his support for the liberation movement in southern Africa and for the Palestinian peoples struggling for independence. (20 April 1981, p. 5)